

WYLDE CENTER

Book a Field Trip 2025-2026



Wylde Center field trips are led by trained, enthusiastic environmental educators in our public gardens to connect our youth to nature. Field trip programming can be adapted to students' grade levels and to meet the Georgia Standards of Excellence. You can schedule your field trip at wyldecenter.org/field-trips.

Review the program offerings available for your field trip:

Decomposition in the Compost Bin (Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Explore the process of decomposition as we make our way through the various types of living organisms in the garden and the compost bins. Students will learn what goes into the compost bin, how it breaks down, and its value to the garden. Younger students will explore the anatomy, importance, and delight of worms and other critters in the garden. Older students will observe sustainable farming techniques that use beneficial microorganisms, cover crops, and compost to build soil health.

Five Senses Exploration (Lower Elementary Grades)

Students will engage their senses every step of the way - smelling herbs, feeling fuzzy or smooth leaves, listening to birds and other wildlife, tasting garden produce and using their sense of sight to make observations. This lesson is appropriate for students of all ages to practice mindfulness in the garden.

Fungus Among Us (Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Discover the fungus among us growing and thriving at Oakhurst Garden. We will take a close look at the variety of fungi that live in the garden, discover how they differ from plants, learn how they help create healthy soil, and become key ingredients in our favorite foods. Students will learn about mushroom reproduction and (when available) get to inoculate or "plant" some shiitake mushroom spores into a log!

Garden Genetics (Upper Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Students will understand the difference between natural gene selection and human-driven selective breeding in plants and animals. They will be able to distinguish between sexual and asexual reproduction in plants and have an opportunity to observe each. Students will experience ways to hand pollinate and, in some cases, participate in DNA extractions.

Habitats & Ecosystems (Upper Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Students will tour one of our gardens to discover the interconnectedness of all living things and the important role of each plant, animal, insect, and decomposer in our environment. Students will learn about the features that make up a suitable habitat and interact with the plants and animals unique to each.

Invasive, Non-Native, and Native Plants (Elementary Grades and Middle School)

In this program students will learn about some of the many invasive plant and animal species in Georgia, where they come from, why they ended up here and more importantly, why they are such a big problem for the ecosystem. Join us as we hunt for and identify some of these nasty invaders, that can even be found in the garden, and then play a fun game to better understand how they spread so prolifically. We'll wrap the program by thinking like an ecologist and try to brainstorm some solutions on how to get rid of invasive species.

Photosynthesis (Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Join us on an exciting hands-on field trip to explore photosynthesis in the real world! Students will visit one of our gardens where they will observe how plants capture sunlight, produce oxygen, and create energy. During the trip, students will investigate plant structures like leaves, stems, and roots to see how they absorb water, nutrients, and sunlight. Additionally, they will enjoy sun photography and observe and compare different plant species in shaded vs. sunny areas, discussing observations and adaptations.

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Plant Classification (Upper Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Imagine yourself walking through meadows and woods, collecting samples to study. In this field trip, students will follow in the footsteps of Carl Linnaeus, a young Swedish boy with a deep curiosity about nature. He grew up to be a scientist and professor known for creating the system that we use today to classify and organize all living things. Students will work with educators to collect specimens from the garden and woods and then, with the help of study guides, group them by kingdoms, orders, genera and species. Findings will be pressed into a nature journal to take home.

Pollination in the Garden (Elementary Grades)

Students will leave this field trip with a deeper understanding of what pollinators do to ensure the success of their community. Pollinators, including bees, are vital members of our ecosystem.

Plants, Culture, & History (Elementary Grades)

We will explore how Native Americans skillfully used plants and animals for food, medicine, and tools, showcasing their deep knowledge of the natural world. Students will learn about traditional farming methods, such as companion planting with the “Three Sisters” (corn, beans, and squash), and how many of these sustainable practices are still used today. We will also discuss how different tribes adapted to their environments, utilizing local resources for shelter, clothing, and everyday life. Through hands-on activities, students will gain a deeper appreciation for Indigenous ingenuity and the lasting impact of their agricultural and ecological knowledge.

Seed Scientists (Elementary Grades and Middle School)

This program provides an up-close look at the life cycle of plants in the garden. Students will use their “seed scientist” gear and observation sheets to learn more about a plant through its seeds. They will see plants at every stage of their life cycle and use movement and play to get to know the phases of the life cycle.

Soil Health - It's Important! (Upper Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Rocks and soil have an incredible story to tell! Join us to explore minerals, fascinating rocks, gems, and fossils. Students will enjoy hands-on investigations measuring pH and acid levels in various liquids and soil. In addition, students will play interactive games on rock formation, examine cool minerals up close, and discover what makes soil more than just dirt—it's essential for plants, animals, and people.

Stream Study (Upper Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Put on a pair of our rubber boots and explore our stream at Oakhurst Garden or Hawk Hollow Garden. See examples of erosion, weathering, and natural floodplains, and observe how this affects stream health and the ability of the stream to support life. Students will also explore examples of the water cycle in action, following the journey of a single drop of rainwater.

Sustainability & Conservation in the Garden (Elementary Grades and Middle School)

Experience some of the ways Wylde Center promotes sustainability and find out why conserving natural resources like water and soil directly impacts our personal health. Topics covered: erosion, soil health, soil composition, composting, water conservation.

To Schedule: wyldecenter.org/field-trips